

## **CONVERSATION WITH A CHRISTIAN ROCKER**

February 3, 2003 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

On January 29 I received the following challenge from a rocker named Alan Harvey (a.k.a. Large Al), the leader of the Blud Bros. This is a Christian rock band that imitates in sound and appearance the filthy secular rock group, the Blues Brothers. Al, who sports long bushy hair that hangs below his shoulders, gave me quite a scolding in his first e-mail:

### **LARGE AL'S FIRST E-MAIL**

"I was just made aware of your statement on May 10, 2002 from your web-page at this link: <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/fridaynews/fridaynews020510.html>. I feel that you need to be called to account for the statement you made because you, through your laziness, are lying in the name of Jesus and it is better for you to repent now, than face Him about it later.

"You stated 'One of things you hear repeatedly in interviews with Christian rockers is 'we are not preachy.'" It came out again a few days ago in an interview with a new band called the Blud Brothers. (The name? I suppose they are trying to play off of the Blues Brothers, because their new record is called a "Christian Blues Record.") In the interview they said, "The lyrics are unabashedly faith based while deliberately not preachy." They aren't fooling me. I think I know what that means. It means they aren't bold for the Word of God. It means they are trying to have one foot with the world and one foot with Christ.'

"First, it is quite obvious that you have absolutely no real information about us, or about the number of souls that have been led to Christ as a result of our ministry. Second, it is obvious that you not only haven't listened to any of our songs, but you haven't even read the titles. Otherwise you might have noticed the song called 'See the Light or Feel the Heat' for example, which has a message that exactly matches its title. What part of that message lacks boldness? How about the boldness to step right up into satan's claimed territory and speak truth and take back what never belonged to him in the first place? How much of that are you doing? Further perusal of the album's song titles will lead you to '(No) Sympathy for the Devil' in which we take the classic rock song most closely affiliated with serving satan and turn it right back around to the real truth that 'on Calvary, Jesus spoiled his little game' and 'on Easter sunday morning, Jesus ruined his life forever!!'

“Finally, there is a cut on the CD entitled ‘Came & Bled & Died.’ If you are bold enough, please spend five minutes listening to that song. God had me write it for you, specifically. Meanwhile, I am going back to the task God has given me, which is reaching souls for Christ in places where you would likely not even have the guts to show up. I hope I am wrong about you.

“By His grace, Large Al”

## **LARGE AL’S SECOND E-MAIL**

I replied to Large Al’s first e-mail in a brief message explaining that I am overseas and preaching five hours a day in a conference but that I would take a look at his web site as soon as I could. In the mean time, I asked him why he warned against being preachy. In his second e-mail, as follows, Large Al explained his position further and apologized for the tone of his first e-mail:

“David,

[The reason I do not like the term “preach” is that] I am working hard, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to reach those who would never darken the doors of a church. Many of those people associate the word ‘preach’ with people who tell them things about Jesus that are not true according to the Word of God. In my interaction there are so many people who have a mental picture of ‘what a Christian is’ which has nothing to do with who Jesus is, or what He teaches. That picture is of a person with a short haircut, in an expensive suit, telling them that they are sinners on the way to hell, and that God wants them to stop being who they are.

‘Jesus, on the other hand, went where people had needs, dealt with their most important need, conquering sin, and gave them what they needed to be free in Him. He didn't say ‘Get a haircut, take a bath, find some better clothes and come to my church so I can yell at you’. He said, ‘Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest, take my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart...’ Jesus preached, but He wasn't ‘preachy.’ I preach, but I work hard to avoid being judgmental, self-absorbed, and I especially try to be humble. The huge failing of Christianity in the United States, is that people become Christians, and then think that they are better than everybody else instead of following Jesus' example of being servant to all. God doesn't want us, as His followers, adding to the excuses people have for not following Him.

“And so I work to distance myself from those negative concepts. Jesus Himself is the stumbling block, I believe it is our job as His followers to do our best to avoid creating man made stumbling blocks that impede the task of bringing people to Jesus. This is who I am, this is what I do.

“I also want to apologize for my tone. It was not my intention to hurt you or make you feel like less of a person. I look forward to the glorious day when sin will no longer be a part of me, and I will quit hurting people, until that day I will continue to try to hone my skills at obeying God, so that I sin less often. I am glad for what you are doing and I want to encourage you in the work.

“Be Blessed, Large Al (aka Alan Harvey)”

## **REPLY TO LARGE AL FROM BROTHER CLOUD**

Hello, Al.

I want to thank you for the gracious tone of the last e-mail and for taking the time to explain your position for me.

I have considered what you have said and have also visited the Blud Bros web site and have looked at your statements and lyrics, and I must stand by what I wrote. Though you are no doubt bold for certain general truths of God’s Word, at least in your own way, I do not see that you are bold for the Word of God in the way that God commands us to be. I realize that you will probably continue to be offended at my judgment, but I do still believe that you are trying to have one foot in the world and one foot with Christ. I am convinced that your philosophy of Christianity is a dangerous and contradictory mixture of truth and error.

First of all, you are blatantly imitating this wicked world with your appearance, group name, and music. There is nothing in the old Blues Brothers that should have any attraction to the child of God. Did the Blues Brothers glorify God with their lives and music? I contend that they did no such thing but rather that they were anti-God, just as are the blues and rock & roll in general. Did John Belushi of the Blues Brothers die a righteous death when he perished in 1982 at age 33 from abusing cocaine and heroin? Why choose an immoral band like that as a pattern for a Christian group? What message are you giving by that? Is it not the message that the God of the Bible is not so difficult after all, that He doesn’t really require that you give up all of your sinful loves, that you can have God and the world, too?

That message is far removed from what we find in the holy Bible. Many scriptures condemn such a worldly philosophy of Christian music.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12).

I am 53 years old, and by God’s grace I was saved out of a rock and roll lifestyle 29 years ago. I was 15 years old when the Beatles blasted on the scene in 1964 and by the time I was in high school I was a full-fledged rock & roll rebel and no one was going to tell me what to do, not my father, not a church or the Bible, no one. It was *my* life and I would do as *I* pleased, thank you. That, of course, was the philosophy of the old bluesmen, epitomized by that womanizing, heavy drinker Robert Johnson who died young from the effects of his rebellion, and it has been the philosophy of rock & roll from Elvis to Eminem. As punk rock manager Malcolm McClaren said: “Rock ‘n’ roll is pagan and primitive, and very jungle, and that’s how it should be! The moment it stops being those things, it’s dead ... the true meaning of rock ... is sex, subversion and style” (*Rock*, August 1983, p. 60). That is certainly the message that I got from rock & roll as a young man. There was nothing in rock music that encouraged me to love the Lord or submit to authority or die to self and live for others. Rock has never been about any of those things and it never will be. “Christian rock” is a misnomer and is confusion. Rock has said a lot about “love,” but rock & roll love is not really love but is lust; it is not a selfless commitment to another; it does not go beyond the physical. Thus the rock generation has been the divorce generation, because it has taught the marriage partners to seek their own and that love is a feeling rather than a commitment. Rock is not about satisfying and pleasing others but about satisfying myself, and when one lives for self, there is no permanent satisfaction, as the Rolling Stones admit.

I spent a year and a half in Vietnam with the Army and became a drifter after I got out. I went to jail for drug abuse and sold drugs for a living. I hitchhiked thousands of miles across North America. When God saved my soul through faith in Christ’s blood in a motel room in Daytona Beach, Florida, in the summer of 1973, He changed my attitude toward the Bible. Before that, I was following eastern religions and I didn't believe the Bible. After I was born again, I believed every word of the Bible. And God told me not only to take every word of the Bible seriously for myself but also to preach it to others. I don't have any truth in myself, but the Bible is God's Truth from the first word to the last,

and my commission is to preach it, to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (2 Tim. 4:2). I am not only to separate from evil things myself but I am to reprove those things in others (Eph. 5:11). That always SOUNDS like pride to the sinner who is being rebuked, of course.

The doctrine that you state at your web site is contrary to the Scriptures I have quoted. Note the following:

"Alan's life is not about religion, and it's definitely not about telling other people what to think or how to act. ... Large Al's songs are not created to force religious opinions on the listener, but are designed instead to point up life truths that most people can already relate to such as ... That defining 'sin' is a matter between you and God, and is really not anyone else's business!! ... And finally, most importantly, that not one single human being has got it all together, or has got it all figured out. Those who think they do are the biggest liars of all, because they are lying to themselves."

I, too, have no time for false religion, but the Bible plainly says there is a true religion, which is faith in Jesus Christ and a life lived in obedience to the "faith once delivered to the saints." Thus, I am not going to join your unscriptural bandwagon of saying that life is not about religion or that sin can only be defined by each person or that those who think they have the truth are lying to themselves, etc.

The Bible even defines true religion: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27).

God has taught me to take both aspects of pure religion seriously. I seek to be a blessing and help to the needy (such as the poorest of the poor in Asia, where I have lived for many years) and also to keep myself unspotted from this wicked world. I can't say that I have been the most shining example of either of these things, but I can say that I am following after that objective. For that reason, not long after I was saved, I cut my long womanish hair in obedience to God's Word (1 Cor. 11:2-15). I separated myself from the wicked rock music that I once loved and worshipped. And I quit smoking and drinking and drugging and worldly partying and womanizing and I did many other things in order to please the Lord who has commanded me to keep myself unspotted from the world.

You said, "In my interaction there are so many people who have a mental picture of 'what a Christian is' which has nothing to do with who Jesus is, or what He teaches. That picture is of a person with a short haircut, in an expensive suit, telling them that they are sinners on the way to hell, and that God wants them to stop being who they are."

First of all, it appears to me that you have a real problem with short hair, but as long as 1 Corinthians 11 is in the Bible, I will have to take my stand against long hair on men. As for the expensive suits, I don't have any. I own two suits and they are both inexpensive,

and whenever possible I don't wear suits or ties. At the same time, I don't see anything wrong with a suit. Suits are respectable in all circles and unlike punk clothing and other the rock & roll fashions, suits do not offend godly people, and God commands me not to give offense (1 Cor. 10:32). As for telling sinners that they are on the way to Hell, that is what Jesus did and is what we are supposed to do. As for God wanting the sinner to stop being what he is, that is exactly what God wants the sinner to do. God calls upon the sinner to repent and to receive the gift of salvation and to start being holy like God is holy (1 Peter 1:15-16) and to stop living for his own self but rather to start dying to self and living for God.

You say that Jesus preached but that He was not preachy. I do not agree. He preached hard on an eternal fiery Hell, for instance. "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-44). I recall reading that passage during my hitchhiking days. I found a Gideon Bible in Panama City, Florida, when I was traveling through there in early 1973, and I opened the Bible to that passage in Mark. It sounded VERY preachy to me at that time! Jesus preached against adultery, even the thought of it, and divorce and hypocrisy and covetousness and serving two masters and being anxious and not trusting God and swearing and speaking evil of a brother and many other things. He repeatedly commanded sinners to repent and repentance tends to be very offensive to the sinner because it means to turn to God from my sinful ways (1 Thess. 1:9). Jesus very first sermon was "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). He did not come merely to call sinners to salvation but also to repentance from their sin. He said that he came to call "sinners to repentance" (Matt. 9:13). He preached on taking up a cross and following him. He preached that those who find their lives shall lose it and that those who deny him before men, them will he also deny. The Lord Jesus was very preachy.

Further, Jesus commanded that people stop sinning (John 5:14; 8:11). He invited sinners to come to Him "as they are," but it was His will that they leave changed! Following this pattern, a scriptural church will invite sinners to come as they are but will also endeavor to see that they leave "as He is"! This is contrary, though, to the rock & roll Christianity philosophy.

You say that Jesus went where sinners were and that he didn't say, "Get a haircut ... and come to my church so I can yell at you..."

I don't agree. The entire New Testament is the Word of Jesus Christ. It was given by inspiration of His Spirit (John 16:13). And the Lord's Apostles definitely taught that believers are to get a haircut (1 Cor. 11) and come to church (Acts 2:41-42; Heb. 10:25). Many entire epistles are written to give instruction about church matters (i.e., 1 Timothy 3:15). There is no example in the New Testament of believers who neglected the assembly. Paul taught that the assembly is a place for the type of preaching that

emphasizes reproof and rebuke (2 Tim. 4:2). The assembly is a place where there are God-called leaders who are to exercise real authority over the flock (Heb. 13:7, 17). Paul further warned that the rejection of strong preaching is a sign of end-time apostasy (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Jesus loved and sought sinners; He was a friend of sinners, bless His name. That is why He came to earth (Lk. 19:10). But He didn't sin with sinners; He didn't imitate sinners; He didn't come as a sheep dressed in wolves' clothing! He didn't go down to the level of sinners in His words and deeds. He preached salvation and righteousness to sinners with the goal of lifting them out of their sin and conforming them to His holy image. Jesus Christ was not then and is not today a rock & roller; He was not and is not a "party animal." Hebrews 13:8 says that Jesus Christ was "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." What is He, then? Hebrews 7:26 says that he is "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" (Heb. 7:26). The rock & roll philosophy is 180 degrees contrary to the Person and Message of Jesus Christ.

You said, "The huge failing of Christianity in the United States, is that people become Christians, and then think that they are better than everybody else instead of following Jesus' example of being servant to all."

That is a doubtless true of some but it is an amazingly broad statement that ignores the fact that there are many godly Christians who live strict moral lives not because they believe they are better than anyone but with a desire to be faithful to the Lord who saved them.

I can't speak for others, but I can speak for myself; and I know that when I cut my long hair and changed my appearance and gave up my rock music as a young Christian, I was not doing it out of a sense of pride and I did not think that I was better than anyone. No one loved rock music more than I did; rock music was my life; but God called me to live holy and to avoid evil things and I was confident that He wanted me to separate from filthy, sexual, rebellious rock.

Pride had absolutely nothing to do with it. In fact, the opposite is true. When it came to my hair, I was out witnessing with a friend one night. He was older in the Lord and was discipling me and I was along as a learner. We knocked on a door in Bartow, Florida, and an elderly woman invited us in. My friend talked to her for a few minutes, inquiring about her relationship with Christ, when she stopped him and said, "I refuse to listen to anything from you about the Bible when you have that long-haired man along with you." She was referring to me. That was probably two months after I was saved. I was amazed at what she said, but instead of being offended, I was given grace by the Lord and I replied to the lady, "I apologize for being a stumblingblock to you; I will cut my hair tomorrow." The Holy Spirit had already been dealing with me about my appearance but I was arguing with Him with reasonings such as "how long is long, anyway?" and "why

should I have to be concerned about what other people think?” When I went to the barber the next day, I died to self and told him that I wanted a short haircut; and I haven’t had to worry about hair since then. Later, as I matured in the Lord, I realized that my long hair had been a matter of pride and that my unwillingness to cut it was a part of lingering worldliness and my hesitation to look entirely different from my old friends.

You said, “I preach, but I work hard to avoid being judgmental, self-absorbed, and I especially try to be humble.”

You are repeatedly confusing proper judgment, which is according to the Bible, with wrong judgment, which is hypocrisy. There is no contradiction between judging things properly according to the Bible and being humble. One does not have to be self-absorbed or proud to live and preach a strict biblical Christianity.

According to the Bible, there is a right judgment and a wrong judgment. Jesus forbade hypocritical judgment in Matthew 7:1-5, but He did not forbid all judging. In that same sermon, He warned about false teachers (Matt. 7:15-20) and false Christians (Matt. 7:21-23). Both of those warnings imply that the believer must exercise keen judgment in order to protect himself from spiritual deception. The Apostles taught the same thing. In the New Testament epistles, believers are instructed not to judge in regard to some things, such as about areas of Christian liberty (things about which the Bible is silent, such as diet and holy days) (Rom. 14:3; Col. 2:16), but at the same time we are instructed to judge such things as sin in the churches (1 Cor. 5) and the content of preaching (1 Cor. 14:29) and false teachers (2 Cor. 11:1-15; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; etc.).

The Pharisee’s problem was not that he judged things strictly according to the Scriptures, but that he judged things more according to his own tradition than the Word of God (Mark 7:7), that he was self righteous (Luke 18:11-12), and that he rejected the grace of God in salvation (Matt. 23:13; Rom. 10:1-4). Many have written and charged me with being a Pharisee because of my strong preaching against one of their pet enjoyments or one of their spiritual heroes, but I can testify before the Lord that I am not guilty of that terrible sin. I do not add my tradition to God’s Word; I accept the Bible as my SOLE authority for faith and practice and I have labored not to add to it nor take from it in my preaching. Someone might disagree with my interpretations, but no one can say that I do not strive to present a biblical basis for everything I preach. Nor am I guilty of rejecting the grace of Jesus Christ and thinking that I have some sort of righteousness of my own. Unlike the old Pharisee, I understand that my “righteousness is as filthy rags” in the eyes of a holy God and that apart from the grace of Jesus Christ and the free gift of righteousness that He gives, I am absolutely nothing.

By the way, Large Al, you are very inconsistent even in the application of your own doctrine. Though you preach that “defining ‘sin’ is a matter between you and God, and is really not anyone else’s business,” you wasted no time in calling me a sinner and warning



me of God's judgments when it came to something close to your heart! And though you claim that it is wrong to tell sinners that they are going to hell, you warn about hell even in one of your own songs! Inconsistencies and contradictions abound in your doctrine, because it is not based strictly upon the Bible but is a mixture of Bible and rock & roll philosophy.

I would like to sit down with you face to face one day, Large Al, and discuss these matters in more detail. Until then, I pray that God may open your eyes before it is too late and before you lead even more people astray with your worldly rock & roll Christianity.

### **LARGE AL'S REPLY TO MY TESTIMONY AGAINST HIM**

Large Al responded on February 2 as follows (I have added some emphasis in all caps):

“David, I am sorry you believe as you do, and I am sorry you are so adamant about making judgements about other people, based on only your personal experience, and your interpretation of the Word of God. Your view is small, judgemental, and you use the Word of God (in King James no less) as your personal weapon to attack the work of others directly commissioned by God. You will answer to Him, you don't need to answer to me.

“I am reaching out to folks with the Truth, and trying to reach the folks that people like you have been busy alienating for years. I GREW MY HAIR BACK IN DIRECT OBEDIENCE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD, and tomorrow if He tells me to shave my head, I pray I will be open to hearing Him and obedient. I wouldn't waste my time responding to you, except that God has called me to help people like you see the error of their ways. You quoted me from my website and didn't even hear it or recognise it. ‘And finally, most importantly, that not one single human being has got it all together, or has got it all figured out. Those who think they do are the biggest liars of all, because they are lying to themselves. Always remember . . . “the Truth will set you Free!”’

“In the 24 years I have been walking with God, there has never been a day when I don't stand in awe of Him as I recognise how much there is I don't know. One important thing that He has let me understand is that as He walked on this planet He always spoke to people in their own language using words they could understand. Jesus spoke Truth in words that people could hear, He did not put up artificial barriers of legalism pertaining to things (like haircuts or music) that were trivial compared to the value of a single soul. You are ministering in Asia, is it your goal to teach people to be followers of Christ or followers of your small minded definition (style of music, type of haircut, etc) of what a ‘Christian’ should be? In Christ's time worship music was performed on instruments much closer to guitars, drums, horns and cymbals, than pianos and organs (which didn't yet exist).

“Christ himself is generally pictured by artists (who we should assume had no demonic, long-hair, rock and roll intentions) as having hair closer to the length of mine than yours.

“In Corinth specifically, long hair on a man (which meant waist-length) was the sign of a male prostitute in the temple of Aphrodite, as cropped hair was the sign of a female prostitute. Hair the length of mine was the norm, except for Roman citizens, and generally slaves who often had their hair cropped for sanitary reasons. Paul had admonitions for the folks in Corinth, rightly deserved based on their behavior. Paul also had his most powerful admonitions for the people who were trying to subvert the church in Galatia with LEGALISM... for them it was circumcision and following the Jewish feast days, for you it haircuts and music. He said of them ‘As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!’ Galatians 5:12

“I can quickly think of pages and pages of scripture I could quote that would be salient to this discussion, but my guess would be that you would only find reasons to ignore or subvert whatever I had to say, besides God is easily capable of defending His work, and He doesn't need my help. Therefore I will pray for you, continue in what I am doing, and look forward to learning the rest of the Truth when we come face to face with Jesus. I do admonish you to pray more, and spend less time beating people up, in so doing you will be less of a tool for Satan.

“Alan”

## **MY FINAL REPLY TO LARGE AL**

Hello, once more, Large Al.

It is sad to see that you have completely and totally ignored all of the scriptures I sent to you. I was praying that you would humble yourself before the Word of God and stop leading people astray.

As for my alleged judgmentalism, I have replied to that extensively, demonstrating from the Word of God that I have a responsibility to prove all things by the Scriptures. That is the responsibility of every child of God. Further, I have a calling as a preacher to reprove, rebuke, and exhort by God's Word. That is considered very judgmental on the part of those who refuse to repent, but it is not my judgment; it is God's.

As for your claims that you are walking carefully with God and that He told you to grow your hair out, the Bible warns repeatedly that it is possible to be deceived. Indeed, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). And “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12). The only way I can be sure that I am truly walking with God and being led by Him is by following the Scriptures. God says, “For all those things hath

mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” (Isaiah 66:2). John said, “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4). Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). It is only through the Word of God, the Scriptures, that we can know the truth.

I know that God did not tell you to grow your hair out long, because He has plainly stated in His Word that it is a shame for a man to have long hair. Your long hair is womanish and shameful and confuses the bounds of the sexes, which God made to be distinct and different (1 Cor. 11:3-7). As for the artistic rendering of Christ with long hair, none of them saw him! Such paintings are not only fanciful; they are presumptuous and are forbidden by God’s Word. We are not to make any images or likenesses of God, and Jesus Christ is Almighty God. Your claim that Paul was merely referring to male prostitutes in 1 Corinthians 11 doesn’t fly. You are doing the same thing as the Pharisees, who by their tradition made the Word of God of none effect. Your extrabiblical tradition about alleged temple prostitutes, etc., makes the Word of God of none effect by claiming that the plain words of Scripture don’t really mean what they say and that believers today are not under obligation to obey them. What the words say is that it is wrong for a woman to have her hair shorn or shaven and it is shameful for a man to have long hair. Those holy words stand firm in spite of your futile attempt to undermine them.

As for the false teachers among the Galatian churches that were rebuked by Paul, they were not teaching that believers should live holy lives in obedience to God’s Word *after* they are saved and *because* they are saved. They were teaching, instead, that the way of salvation is through obedience. The Galatian heresy had to do with the gospel itself, with changing the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ into a false gospel by adding some works and law-keeping to it (Gal. 1:8-9, etc.). I do not do any such thing. I have preached for 29 years that sinners can come to Jesus Christ and be eternally saved by his grace alone through faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16; Acts 16:31, Rom. 4:1-8; etc.). Salvation is a free gift, and if the sinner attempts to add any of his own works to it, it ceases to be a gift. The addition of any works and sacraments to the gospel of the grace of Christ is the error that Paul fought against in Galatia. At the same time, the Scriptures also teach that after we come to Christ, after we are born again and have eternal life through His grace, we will live new and holy lives in conformity to His Word (Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 2:19; Titus 3:8, etc.).

Again you have misquoted the Scripture in a vain attempt to defend your worldliness.

I conclude this e-mail as I did the former one. I pray that God may open your eyes before it is too late and before you lead even more people astray with your worldly rock & roll Christianity.

In Christ,  
David Cloud

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